

# THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD

## A Monthly Journal of Medicine and Surgery.

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SUBSCRIPTION TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

All communications and Exchanges must be addressed to the Editor, Drawer 56, Post office, Montreal.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY, 1876.

### WESTERN HOSPITAL, MONTREAL.

The quarterly meeting of the governors of the Western Hospital was held in the Mechanics' Hall, on the 1st February, Major H. Mills, the President, being in the Chair, supported by the Vice-Presidents, William Workman, Esq., and Hugh McLennan, Esq. There was a good attendance of the Governors. The Secretary, Mr. James Coristine, informed the meeting that communication had been had with Mr. Robert Hamilton, of Quebec, from whom the Corporation of the Western Hospital had purchased their property, with a view to his freeing entirely one-half of the property, and placing his mortgage upon the other half. This was done so that Major Mills might be able to, at once, proceed with the erection of his building on ground entirely free from debt. Mr. Hamilton, he stated, at once expressed his willingness to accede to this request, as soon as a mortgage on the whole property, which was due, was liquidated, provided, in addition to the mortgage which he would have on the remaining portion of the Hospital, several of the governors would give their personal guarantee. He was happy to state that all the conditions had been fulfilled, the day previous the mortgage due, with interest to date, had been paid. Mr. William Workman, Mr. Hugh McLennan and himself had given their personal guarantee that the balance due on the land purchase would be paid, and that morning Mr. Hamilton had instructed his agent in Montreal to prepare the necessary papers, releasing the eastern half of the property from any encumbrance whatever.

Mr. James Jack, the Treasurer, submitted his statement. The amount of subscriptions collected to date was \$19,522.04, all of which had been expended upon the land, with but a very small exception. He also handed in a statement of the unpaid subscriptions, amounting to a little over \$12,00. He considered about \$10,000 of this perfectly collectible, the balance were subscriptions whose amounts were to be taken out in services of various kinds, and from those who had since become insolvent. He consi-

dering that taking the "hard times" into account, the amount collected was exceedingly gratifying.

Major Mills said that it was owing to the steady and unwearied perseverance of some half-dozen earnest workers that the Western Hospital stood in the very satisfactory condition which had just been detailed to them; on his part, he begged to assure the Governors that he hoped to proceed at once with the erection of his building.

Mr. Wm. Workman said he firmly believed in the necessity of this Hospital, which, from its magnificent position and surroundings, and nearness to the large manufacturing districts, would do a large amount of good. There were many, he knew, who ridiculed the idea of the Western Hospital ever being a success, but he was satisfied that they would have a different opinion after looking at the financial statement which had been submitted by the Treasurer. He was well satisfied that friends would crowd around us, and that abundant subscriptions would be forthcoming, just as soon as ever the walls of Major Mill's building would commence to appear.

Mr. Hugh McLennan stated that he felt convinced that any little antagonism, which might apparently have manifested itself by the friends of the General Hospital, against the Western, would soon disappear—for they had both the same noble object in view—the relief of human suffering; and, as to the necessity of the new institution, he had no doubt whatever in his mind.

Dr. F. W. Campbell said it was an old maxim that history repeats itself, and the opposition to the Western Hospital in Montreal, by some of the friends of the Montreal General Hospital, was only what had occurred in several cities which he could name where the extension of Hospital accommodation was wanted. He named, among other cities, Glasgow, in Scotland, where the old Royal Infirmary, had manifested for several years the strongest opposition to the erection of a new Western Infirmary in that city—but its necessity being manifest, its friends persevered and in October, 1874, he had the pleasure of going through the Glasgow Western Infirmary, which two days later, was opened for the reception of patients. These two institutions strongly antagonistic year and a-half ago are to day working harmoniously, guided by different organizations. And so he believed it would be here. It was impossible that an institution like the General Hospital, that, for fifty years had performed such a noble work, could continue to oppose the new Hospital, and he firmly believed that the days of obstruction were passed, and that a bright future was before the Western Hospital.